


12-27-01

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 <b>UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL</b> <b>(Large Entity)</b> (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))	Docket No. MP/157
	Total Pages in this Submission

**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR APPLYING REINFORCEMENT MATERIAL TO A SURGICAL STAPLER**

and invented by:

**EDWARD M. PALACIOS**  
**RAYMOND P. TORREZ**

J1040 U.S. PTO  
 10/026108  
 12/20/01

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are:

**Application Elements**

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 24 pages and including the following:
  - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)
  - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)
  - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix (if applicable)
  - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
  - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
  - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings (if drawings filed)
  - h. ☒ Detailed Description
  - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
  - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

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**Application Elements (Continued)**

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
- a. ☐ Formal Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Informal Number of Sheets 25
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly executed *(original or copy)* ☐ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under  
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby  
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche *(Appendix)*
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy *(identical to computer copy)*
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

**Accompanying Application Parts**

8. ☒ Assignment Papers *(cover sheet & document(s))*
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement *(when there is an assignee)*
10. ☐ English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail *(Specify Label No.):* EL553364947US

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**Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)**

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

**Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)**

- ☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

**Warning**

***An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.***

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Large Entity)**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.  
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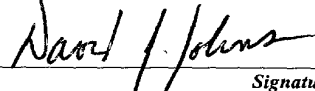
Total Pages in this Submission

**Fee Calculation and Transmittal**

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	16	- 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	2	- 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$740.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose) _____					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$740.00

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 07-1729 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

  
Signature

David J. Johns  
Reg. No. 31,527  
W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.  
551 Paper Mill Road  
Newark, DE 19714-9206  
(928) 526-3030

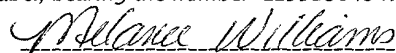
Dated: 12/20/01

cc:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Palacios et al.  
Appl. No. : Not Yet Assigned  
Filed : Simultaneously Herewith  
Title : Apparatus and Method For  
Applying Reinforcement Material  
To A Surgical Stapler

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is  
being deposited with the "Express Mail Post  
Office to Addressee" service of the United  
States Postal Service in an envelope  
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Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202  
on December 20, 2001, with an Express Mail  
Label, bearing the number EL553364947US*

  
Melanee Williams

Dec. 20, 2001  
(date of mailing document)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

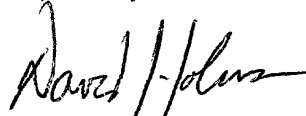
We enclose the following papers for filing in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in  
connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal (4 pages)
2. Specification and Abstract (24 pages, 16 claims)
3. Informal Drawings (25 sheets)
4. Declaration and Power of Attorney (2 pages)
5. Recordation Form Cover Sheet (1 page)
6. Assignment (2 pages)

**The Commissioner is hereby authorized and is requested to charge all filing fees  
due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and all other fees due under § 1.17 during the pendency of this  
application to our Deposit Account No. 07-1729.**

Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Johns 31,527  
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Date: 12/20/01

1006108-122001